# **Health & Community Services for Aged Persons**

### Mission

To provide leadership, stewardship, and collaboration necessary to ensure delivery of a broad array of services for older adults, based upon the principles of independence, quality, dignity, privacy, and personal choice.

## **Summary of Activities**

The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) has a variety of programs to address the needs of older individuals.

Through the Division of Disability, Aging, and Rehabilitative Services (DDARS), the Bureau of Aging and In-Home Services (BAIHS) provides a broad array of services. In-home services include: homemaker, attendant care, respite care, home health services and supplies, transportation, adult day care, home-delivered meals, and other appropriate services such as minor home modification and adaptive aids and devices.



In addition to in-home services, the Bureau provides an additional

range of community-based services including: congregate meals, information and referral, legal services, preventive health services, adult guardianship, adult protective services, ombudsman, senior employment, preadmission screening and annual resident review, assisted living through the Room and Board Assistance (RBA) and Assistance to Residents in County Homes (ARCH) programs, and the money management and representative payee programs.

The Statewide In-Home Services Program was established July 1, 1992, and is nationally recognized for its single point of entry system that works in concert with the 16 local Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). This program has formally brought together funding from the Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled (CHOICE) Program, Title III of the Older Americans Act, the Social Services Block Grant, the Older Hoosiers account, the United States Department of Agriculture (meals), four Medicaid waivers and local funding to provide a comprehensive, coordinated alternative to institutional placement. This system is customer friendly; the local offices are "close to home" - an important concern for a person in need of assistance.

Residential services for the aged also include services provided in nursing facilities. In FY 2003, Indiana provided services to 45,708 individuals in nursing homes compared to 11,167 through the CHOICE program and 4,363 on the Aged and Disabled Waiver. State and federal funding for individuals served in nursing facilities totaled \$813.6 million in FY 2003 compared to \$56.8 million for CHOICE and the Aged and Disabled Waiver combined. However, the number of individuals served through CHOICE and the Aged Disabled Waiver has increased by over 100% since 1994, growing from 7,791 clients for both programs in 1994 to 15,530 in 2003.

In addition to these services, BAIHS provided a variety of other community-based services in FY 2003. Major programs include serving 12,920 individuals in their homes through the Social Service Block Grant at an average cost of just under \$500 per person. About 1500 people were served in the Residential Care Assistance Program at an average cost of \$7,850 a year. Finally, over 3 million meals were delivered to senior Hoosiers in congregate settings and in their homes.

#### **External Factors**

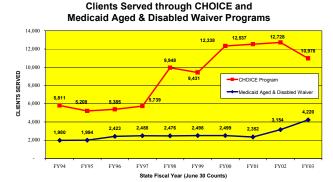
The environment continues to change for older adults. Through changes in technology, increased experience with community settings, and increased demand for independence, more and more elderly individuals are able to live at home rather than prematurely enter a nursing home or other health care facility. As a result, staff and service providers are focusing on delivery of services outside of institutions in less restrictive and safer environments. However, more can be done to provide support for these individuals and their families when in their home.

Addressing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) issues will be necessary to ensure that disabled individuals who would benefit from a community placement are not limited to institutional settings.

## **Evaluation and Accomplishments**

A number of tools are used to evaluate how effective FSSA is in providing community and residential services to older adults. There are multiple levels of quality assurance including the Quality Improvement Process, which is a consumer feedback report.

Consumers can access services through a single point of entry in their local community at the nearest Area Agency on Aging. BAIHS maintains a single phone number that directs callers to the AAA appropriate to their own locale. BAIHS has implemented an updated data system that links the area agencies



with central office. This will allow for one-time data entry and quicker access to required information. This same system is used by the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Medicaid Planning and Policy and over 2,000 case managers involved in providing community services.

Funding increases in CHOICE, the Medicaid waivers, and the personal needs allowance have also enhanced opportunities to serve more people and provide them with better opportunities to sustain themselves. Community and in-home services have been provided to thousands of individuals in order for them to remain in their own homes and communities versus more expensive institutional settings such as nursing homes.

#### Plans for the Biennium

Over the next biennium, collaboration will continue to be an integral part of the community and residential services for older adults program. Working together, BAIHS and the 16 AAAs will refine programs and services for older adults and continue to develop quality initiatives. The focus is on developing long-term plans to address the nearing crisis in aging services. By 2025, there will be approximately twice as many Hoosiers over the age of 65 who are eligible for services. At the same time, there will be a reduction from five to four taxpayers supporting each Medicaid recipient.

In addition, the Governor's Commission on Home and Community-Based Services is currently exploring several additional community-based services for the aged. These include growing the Medicaid waiver for assisted living and developing an adult foster care program. BAIHS is focusing on developing new partnerships with the entire aging network to develop an aggressive outreach, education, and early intervention program to assist seniors in remaining independent. While the fiscal impact of these alternatives is significant, it needs to be viewed in light of what is currently being spent on care of individuals in nursing facilities.

